

# 3 Policemen Killed In Line of Duty During Provo's History; 2 Murdered, 1 Accidental

By VAL HESS

Every day the police officers of this community, as well as law enforcement officers everywhere, take the chance of exchanging their lives for their paychecks.

Fortunately, in the community of Provo the officers seldom have to lay their lives on the line, but it can happen at any time.

In the long history of the Provo Police Department there have been three officers who have lost their lives while on the job and as a direct result of their police duties. Many others have faced difficult and dangerous situations, but have escaped with their lives.

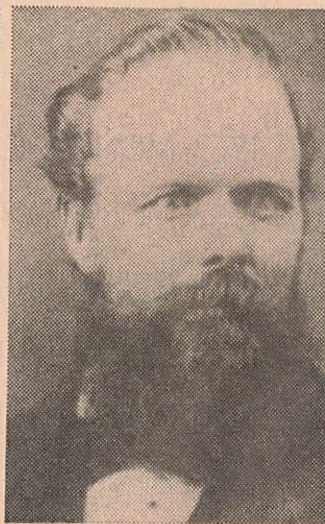
## Ultimate Dedication

But there are three, whose pictures have a place of honor on the wall of the Provo Police headquarters, who have proven their ultimate dedication to duty by offering their lives in the protection of the residents of the community.

Albert H. Bowen, the first chief of police in Provo, was the first victim when he was shot in the head by a drunken man he was attempting to arrest. This occurred on Oct. 15, 1873.

William Strong was killed on June 27, 1899, by a hobo he apparently had arrested while on special assignment to take care of a growing hobo problem.

The other officer, Frank J.



**PAID ULTIMATE PRICE**—These three officers were killed in line of duty while serving on the Provo Police Force. Left, Albert H. Bowen, first chief of police of Provo, fatally shot by a man he was attempting to arrest for drunkenness. Center, William Strong, shot and killed by an unknown hobo who never was apprehended. Right, Frank J. Tucker, killed on duty by an accidental shot from his own gun.

one of the rooms at the Peter Stubbs residence where he appeared to be getting along all right for a while. However, on Oct. 19, four days later, he died of the head injury.

The brother of the accused man, Dominicus Carter, was arrested because he was quoted as telling his brother, after the tragedy, "Here comes an-

Near the turn of the century Provo was having problems with a great number of tramps who were coming into the community on the railroad trains. The problem became so acute, that the Provo City fathers hired William Strong as a special police officer to handle the hobos.

William Strong had served

intersection of J. and Third Streets (presently University Avenue and 3rd South. He struck the officer just behind the right ear and, as the dazed officer tried to pull his own

Hundreds of hobos were arrested in all the surrounding communities but none were found who were thought to be responsible. A horse was stolen from western Provo shortly after the shooting and it is felt that it was the means of escape.

## Early Settler

William Strong was one of the early settlers of Provo. He was born Jan. 25, 1840 in Kendall, Westmoreland, England and joined the LDS church when eight years of age. He moved with his father's family to Utah in 1855 and shortly after moved to Provo.

He was married and the father of children and the veteran officer was greatly respected. His funeral was one of the most well-attended and ornate in the early history of the community.

The third officer to be shot on duty in Provo was Frank J. Tucker, who had served for some time as city marshal and then was a police officer.

Mr. Tucker and a friend, George Ross, were sitting in the sheriff's office in the court house about 10:30 p.m. on June 16, 1904.

## Shot Rings Out

According to Mr. Ross, the two were talking and then were about to leave the office. Mr. Tucker began to rise from his chair, when a pistol shot rang out. The officer then sank back in the chair.



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young man had been drinking while in a small gathering of men near the corner of Center and Fourth West Streets.

jailed. Bystanders indicated the age.

ords.  
Police Chief Bowen was shot at 6 p. m. on Oct. 15, 1873, by Harrison Carter, who had boasted that there weren't any police officers who could take him to

**Research Done**  
Jesse W. Evans, currently Provo chief of police, and Fred Lovelless, retired police lieutenant, have done a great amount of research and have unearthed the information surrounding the deaths of each of the three officers. Some of the information comes from old newspaper files, other from relatives of the trio still living in the area and still more from police and city files and re-

Tucker, was shot by his own gun on June 16, 1904. His gun accidentally discharged and struck him in the left side, just above the hip, and then ranged upwards toward the heart.

He was sentenced to the state prison and either while trying to escape or while being returned after his capture, he was himself shot in the head, and killed by officers.

Albert H. Bowen was born July 22, 1826 in Genesee County, New York. He joined the LDS Church in 1848 and then migrated to Utah in 1861. After serving a mission to Dixie, he settled in Provo in 1866, where he worked as a potter.

He served as chief of police for nearly a year before being shot, when he was 47 years of age.

A widespread search was instituted for the assassin but he was not to be found. However, several weeks later Harrison Carter was arrested in Nevada and was returned to Provo to face trial for his crime in

First Week on Job  
He had served only a week in the new capacity when he was killed.  
Mr. Strong was seen shortly before midnight by fellow officers and then he left for the railroad yards to check an incoming train.  
One of the railroad employees saw Mr. Strong talking to a tramp near the water tank to the east of the station shortly after the train pulled into the yards. Then the two began walking up town.  
The theory, which was drawn from tracks in the dust of the street, is that the tramp had a revolver, which he suddenly pulled out as they reached the

for 26 years as a peace officer and had retired from active police work. But when the mayor contacted him concerning the special assignment, he accepted in order to help his community.

Mass Search  
The killing started a mass search for the killer. Many of the town's men and boys, summoned by the fire bell, went out in searching parties looking for him. Newspaper items indicate it was just lucky that someone else didn't get shot because of the nervous trigger fingers of many of the searchers.

As dawn broke, the tracks of the escaping murderer were plainly visible in the dust running west on Third Street. But the culprit was never found.

however, shot Officer Strong through the left breast and heart. Officer Tucker (who later was to be killed on duty himself) was not too far away and rushed to the scene to find the special policeman lying on the ground. He notified two doctors who examined Mr. Strong, but

A doctor was immediately summoned but pronounced the policeman dead. The doctor indicated the bullet had entered just above the left hip and then hit the heart.

It was never definitely established how the gun discharged. It was finally decided that the officer had the pistol in his coat pocket and was fumbling it absentmindedly, probably thinking it was on safety.

As the gun discharged, Mr. Tucker pulled his hand from his pocket and dropped the gun on the floor.

The well-known officer was only 37 years of age when he died. He had lived in Provo about 12 years and left his widow and four children.

Three officers shot and killed in line of duty in the 115-year history of Provo. To some, it may not seem very many. But it can happen anytime . . .